



# WE'RE NUMBER 1!



Courtesy Photo/Jessica Anderson

**WE'RE NUMBER 1!** The Wallowa Valley Outlaws combined softball team shows the world they have what it takes to be number one in their league after defeating Nyssa and Vale, 15-5 and 9-8 respectively, at district championships over the weekend.

## OUTLAWS WIN DISTRICT TITLE

Softball squad upends Vale on path to playoffs

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

How do you go from third place to the league title in one weekend? Beat all your opponents at district play and walk off with the trophy.

After their lopsided 14-2 win over Irrigon on Tuesday, May 14 to even get into districts, the Outlaws went to district in Vale, where they steamrolled over Nyssa, 15-5, on Saturday, May 18 and followed with a 9-8 squeaker over formerly undefeated Vale.

Despite what appears an easy game, Coach Gary Gasset said the battle was very close until the later innings. The Outlaws were down 4-2 in the third when Rylin Kirkland hit a two-run rocket out of the park that locked the score at 4-4. Going into the fifth inning, freshman bat hero, Liz Rowley, blasted a two-run shot, her third in two games, for a 6-4 lead. The girls added some insurance with five runs in the sixth to break the game open and added four more in the seventh for kicks.

Coach Gasset said the squad had 17 hits — one of their highest totals of the season.

"We put it on 'em," he said. "Everybody in the starting lineup got a hit, and it was our second consecutive game with no errors."

Hurler Lexie Gasset went the distance for the Outlaws. The senior scattered five earned runs on 11 hits while chalking up a strikeout and

a free pass while throwing only 78 pitches.

Claire Farwell went 2 for 4 with a double and three runs scored while Gasset helped her cause with a 2 for 4 plate performance while scoring three runs. Freshman batmeister, Rowley, went 3 for 4 with five RBIs from her homer and a two-run double. Kirkland was 1 for three with two RBIs on her homer and two runs scored. Samantha McFarland was 3 for 5 with two RBIs and a run scored while Aysia Salim was 2 for 5 with a double and two RBIs and two runs scored.

The 9-8 victory versus undefeated Vale proved even more exciting. The game started on an ominous note when Gasset, in her second start of the day, took a monster line drive to the chest.

"She was down for a while," said father and coach, Gary Gasset. "We didn't know how badly hurt she was." The coach had Gasset switch places with centerfielder Liz Rowley.

Rowley pitched the rest of the game for the win. The freshman fanned eight while handing out seven free passes and allowed seven earned runs. "She did a tremendous job," Coach Gasset said.

Vale led the Outlaws 1-0 after two innings, but in the third, the Outlaws scored four to make it 4-1. The loud bat of McFarland doubled home two runs and Rowley cracked in two runs with a single. Vale tied the game in their half of the frame. The fourth inning saw the Outlaws adding two runs and after five innings the Outlaws led 6-5.

The Outlaws added

another run in the sixth when Kirkland singled in Gasset for a 7-5 lead. But Vale scored two in their half to even score at 7-7. With two outs in the seventh inning, Aysia Salim singled while Ella Anderson walked. Claire Farwell's bat exploded and doubled the two runners home for a 9-7 lead.

In the bottom of the seventh, Rowley struck out the first hitter, but the next hitter launched a triple while a single brought her home. With the tying run now at first with one out and the third and fourth hitters at the plate and on deck, respectively, Coach Gasset didn't know what to expect. The third hitter pounded a scorching line drive that McFarland caught at first base and doubled off the runner.

"Oh my God, I think we won!" Gasset said to assistant coach, Andy Plew.

Farwell's bat spoke volumes for the sophomore as she went 3 for 4 with a double, triple, and three RBIs along with two runs scored. Despite the chest injury, Gasset went 2 for 5 with RBI and a run scored while reliable Rowley went 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Kirkland was 2 for 3 with a double, a run scored and RBI. McFarland went 2 for 4 with a double and two RBIs. The Outlaws laced 14 hits in the game.

In his final comments on the seventh inning, Coach Gasset said, "It was one of those innings it happened so quickly. I don't think McFarland knew what happened."

The Outlaws play their first state playoff game at home versus Yamhill-Carlton on Wednesday, May 22.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

**Wallowa Valley Outlaws freshman Liz Rowley trots home after a grand slam — her second homer of the game during a 14-2 home stomping of Irrigon on Wednesday, May 15. The game determined who went to the district championships. The Outlaws went on to defeat all-comers at district to clinch first place.**

## Holy Rowley!

Freshman drives in six for win

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Thanks to a grand slam and two-run homer by freshman phenom Liz Rowley, the Wallowa Valley Outlaws are guaranteed a slot in the state playoffs. The Outlaws torched the Irrigon Vikings' vessels in a home post-season game 14-2 on Tuesday, May 14.

Senior Lexie Gasset handled the pitching duties for the Outlaws giving only five hits and two earned runs over the five-inning game, fanning five and walking two.

Offensively, Rowley hit her first home run in her first at bat, launching a rocket to straight-away center and well over the fence. Her second blast, with the

bases loaded, went over the left field fence. Like the first shot, teammates mobbed Rowley as she crossed the plate.

Rowley wasn't the only one in on the home run act. Catcher Jessie Teeney slammed a two-run shot in the third. The score stood at 11-0 by the end of that frame.

Six girls had multi-hit performances despite the shortened battle. Rowley went 2 for 4 with six RBIs while Teeney went 2 for 3 with three RBIs. Aysia Salim went 2 for 3 with an RBI as did Beth Anderson without the RBI. Claire Farwell went 2 for 4 with an RBI while Gasset pounded Vikings pitching for three hits in four trips to the plate and three RBIs.

Defensively, the squad didn't give up a single error.

"It's great to have a game with no errors," coach Gary Gasset said. "The whole game turned out pretty good."

**2014 DUTCHMEN DENALI 261BH**  
STOCK #10527A  
Excellent Condition!



Price **\$21,999**

**2011 FORD F150 SUPERCREW**  
STOCK # 10686 • 79,147 mi.  
Lariat, FX4 Package, Loaded



Price **\$23,900**

**2008 FOREST RIVER CEDAR CREEK**  
STOCK #10671  
Beautiful 5th Wheel Trailer



Price **\$21,999**

**2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMI RUBICON**  
STOCK #10742 • 73,238 mi.  
4WD, A/C, PS, PW, PWR LOCKS



Price **\$29,999**

**MAN STREET @motors**  
Old Fashioned Values  
Sales & Service

www.main-street-motors.com  
sales@main-street-motors.com  
311 West Main St. • Enterprise  
541-426-2100